

COUNTRY East Germany SECURITY INFORMATION 25X1A REPORT NO. [redacted]

TOPIC Reinforcement of Soviet and German Border Troops in the Sonneberg-Hildburghausen Area

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED [redacted] 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 24 April to 20 May 1953

DATE OBTAINED [redacted] 25X1A DATE PREPARED 8 July 1953

REFERENCES [redacted]

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [redacted]

REMARKS [redacted]

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SOURCE [redacted]

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1. From 25 April to 2 May 1953, additional Soviet soldiers arrived in Koeppelsdorf bringing the total strength of the troops stationed there to about 220. They wore red-bordered black epaulets. 25X1B

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2. On 24 April, the VP border unit in Koeppelsdorf received 22 riding horses which arrived by rail and brought the total available to the unit to 28 horses. The unit also received 8 van-like trucks, similar to those of the Soviet Army, on the same day. The barbed-wire storage area in Koeppelsdorf was enlarged in late April 1953. 25X1

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3. During the night on 6 May, a night exercise involving 1 Soviet company and 1 KVP company was held immediately along the demarcation line in the area of Bergmühle near Koeppelsdorf. The exercise was performed with blank cartridges and covered the area from the direction of Sonneberg as far as Bergmühle and, allegedly, had for its purpose the repulsion of infantry which had penetrated the demarcation line.

4. During the night on 9 May, the Soviet company stationed in Koeppelsdorf which previously had only two 76-mm AT guns received additional two guns of this type.

5. The erection of wire entanglements along the demarcation line was continued up to mid-May 1953. Thirty women and 10 men were employed almost daily on this work under supervision of eight VPs in the area of Koeppelsdorf. The barbed-wire fence in the Hoenbach-Meilschnitz-Effelder area was completed.

6. After the Soviets had left the Burghof Hotel in Hildburghausen for an undetermined destination on 19 May, new Soviet units arrived in the area of Hildburghausen on 20 May. The former Technological Institute and the Isolierhaus building in Hildburghausen were occupied by an undetermined number of troops. The fortress in Hildburghausen was occupied by about 200 mostly very young soldiers who wore red epaulets. 25X1B

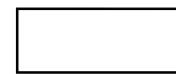
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7. On and after 20 May, two trains carrying KVP arrived in Hildburghausen. The bulk of the troops was quartered in a makeshift way in the former boarding school on Schleusinger Strasse. Other trains were allegedly expected. 25X1B

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